— Abolition of export duty on unmanufactured tobacco with effect from 1-4-1986;

— Inclusion of unmanufactured tobacco in the select list of export products under Appendix 16 of Import-Export Policy;

— Reduced interest rates on advances/export credits granted to the exporters with effect from 1-8-1986;

— Exports of tobacco to China have been permitted on D.A. terms (Documents against Acceptance) with *the time stipulation being 30 days* within which collection would be made after discharge of cargo at the port of destination;

— Exports of tobacco to Egypt have been permitted with payment *terms involving 50 per cent* against presentation of documents on shipment and balance 50 per cent on arrival of goods after inspection in Egypt;

— Exports to Algeria have been permitted by extension of one year credit;

— A delegation comprising of the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce Tobacco Board/STC visited Egypt, Algeria and Tunisia in July, 1987 for export promotion of tobacco;

— The STC has been asked to contact buyers in Spain, Portugal, FRG and France through their Paris Office and explore markets for Indian tobacco in these countries.

Amendment of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution Act, 1974

2136. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government propose to amend the existing Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974;

(b) whether the Central Government also propose to confer more powers on the State Governments to control pollution and also to impose stringent penalties on defaulters; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the amendments likely to be made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE *MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND* FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) A proposal to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 is under the consideration of the Government.

Cotton handloom garments exported by STC

2137. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of cotton garments exported from India by the State Trading Corporation and its subsidiary agencies and quantum of foreign exchange earned by the Corporation and its subsidiary agencies during the last three years, year-wise (cotton garments and handlooms separately);

(b) what was the target fixed for the exports of cotton garments and handlooms for the State Trading Corporation and its subsidies during the last three years, indicating the names of the subsidiary agencies and also indicating the *names of the trading countries*;

(c) whether it is a fact that State Trading Corporation and its agencies are only assisting big garment exporters while ignoring young women entrepreneurs; and

(d) if so, whether S.T.C. will chalk out any programme for helping young women entrepreneurs engaged in the manufacture of cotton/handloom garments?